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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☐ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☒ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☐ Abstract ☐ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.
- Figure:
 - ☒ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 94 91 2274 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
T	MCPHERRON A C ET AL: "Regulation of skeletal muscle mass in mice by a new TGF-beta superfamily member." NATURE, (1997 MAY 1) 387 (6628) 83-90. , XP002085797 * the whole document *	1-18, 20-38	C07K13/00 C07K15/28 A61K37/36 C12N15/18 C12N15/10 C12N15/66
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) C07K A61K C12N
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or some or all of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for the following claims:</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 September 2000	Examiner Mennessier, T
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C

Application Number
EP 94 91 2274

Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-9,20,21,

Claim(s) not searched:
19

Reason for the limitation of the search:

According to an aspect, claim 1 is directed to fragments that are at least 15 bases in length and that selectively hybridise to genomic DNA which encodes the GDF-8 protein of SEQ ID NO.11 or 13. Such fragments represent an extremely broad number of oligonucleotides for which it is obviously not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art with a view to determining whether any oligonucleotide has been disclosed which has at least 15 based in length corresponding to a GDF-8 fragment and is capable of selectively hybridizing as indicated in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 has not been searched insofar as it is directed to such fragments (see part (i) of the claim). For the same reasons, embodiments of the subject-matter of claims 2-9 and 20 which are defined with reference to such fragments have not been searched.

Claim 19 is directed to an antisense sequence that is complementary to and capable of hybridising with at least a portion of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 4. In view of the GDF-8 size claim 19 encompasses an extremely broad number of oligonucleotides with the result that it is also obviously not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on its basis.

Taking into account the above comments, as claim 21 is directed to any therapeutic composition, whatever the therapeutical effect it may have, a meaningful search could not be carried out for that part of the claimed subject-matter which is defined with reference to an antisense sequence of claim 19 or a ribozyme of claim 20 that is capable of recognizing the polynucleotide of claim 1(i).